BAD BUG MIDNIGHT
MATURE 17+

CALAMIA • FALCO • SOUZA • MACLEOD

#3

THE MISADVENTURES OF BOMBSHELL & ATOMICA

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03

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BAD BUG

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WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

NOTHING, SIR.

YOUR FACE SAYS OTHERWISE.

I GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO BE BLUNT.

WELL, UM... I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND.

SHE'S A...

A WAITRESS...FINE. A NURSE...I CAN DEAL WITH THAT...BUT A SOLDIER?

WHY HER?

THERE ARE SO MANY MEN...GOOD MEN...THAT WOULD DIE FOR POWER LIKE THAT.

WHO *HAVE DIED...*

RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR YEARS FOR A CHANCE AT...SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES.

WE WERE PROMISED A BETTER LIFE!

BUT INSTEAD WE COME BACK AND ***EVERYTHING*** IS THE SAME, BUT IT'S ALSO DIFFERENT.

THIS WOMAN DOESN'T DESERVE THE POWER THAT I WORKED SO HARD FOR!

...I'm sorry.

NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.

I ASKED YOU TO BE BLUNT.

LET ME LEVEL WITH YOU.

RITA WASN'T THE FIRST EXPERIMENT... SHE WAS OUR FIRST *SUCCESSFUL* ONE.

THERE WERE PLENTY OF MEN WILLING TO MAKE THAT SACRIFICE FOR THEIR COUNTRY, BUT IT ULTIMATELY... DIDN'T TAKE.

THE BOMBSHELL AND ATOMICA ACCIDENT TAUGHT US THAT THE SERUM...IT'S ONLY COMPATIBLE WITH THE DOUBLE X CHROMOSOME.

CRUEL IRONY.

THE POWER ISN'T FIGHTING ON THE FRONTLINES... IT'S *THIS.*

IT'S BEING IN CHARGE.

SHE'S JUST A SOLDIER. SHE'S EXPENDABLE.

BUT YOU... YOU COULD BE SO MUCH MORE.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

VERONICA... IT'S BETTY.

Can we talk?

HELLO?

VERONICA?

VICTOR?

IS ANYONE HOME?

VERONICA! ARE YOU OKAY?

No... I'm not.

I'M SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

FOR OUR FIGHT...

...FOR SAYING WE SHOULD BREAK UP.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT'S THE *LAST THING* I WANT.

I KNOW YOU'RE SORRY.

BUT I ALSO KNOW NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE.

WE'RE STUCK IN AN ENDLESS CYCLE.

I TOLD BRANT...

...ABOUT *US.*

How did he...?

BRANT AND I HAVE ALWAYS HAD AN... *UNCONVENTIONAL* RELATIONSHIP.

BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE JUST WANT EACH OTHER TO BE HAPPY.

AND HE KNOWS THAT *YOU* MAKE ME HAPPY, VERONICA.

HE TOLD ME THAT I SHOULD HOLD ON TO YOU AND *NEVER* LET GO.

I'M SCARED, BETTY.

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN KEEP DOING... THIS.

WHICH PART?

ALL OF IT.

THE SUPERHEROING. OUR RELATIONSHIP. MY--

YOUR WHAT?

I FEEL LIKE I'M CONSTANTLY FIGHTING TO EXIST IN A WORLD THAT DOESN'T ACCEPT ***ANY*** PART OF ME.

THAT ANY TIME I FIND SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME HAPPY, THE WORLD FINDS A WAY TO REMIND ME THAT I CAN'T HAVE IT.

AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE FIGHT I HAVE IN ME.

I JUST WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN BORN A HUNDRED...***TWO HUNDRED YEARS*** FROM NOW.

WE HAVE AS MUCH OF A RIGHT TO EXIST AS EVERYONE ELSE, VERONICA.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY THAT THINGS WILL BE BETTER...

...AND THAT'S IF PEOPLE LIKE US ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR A BETTER FUTURE. ***TODAY.***

YOU'RE MY FUTURE, VERONICA. THE ONLY FUTURE I WANT.

AND I'M WILLING TO FIGHT FOR IT IF YOU ARE.

I'M SORRY I'M SUCH A MESS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO RIGHT NOW IS LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU.

IS VICTOR COMING HOME?

NOT ANYTIME SOON.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

RUNNING US A BATH.

SPSHHHHH

BUT...IF WE TOUCH WE'LL DESTROY THE ENTIRE BATHROOM.

THEN I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR JUST *LOOKING* RIGHT NOW.

NOT A BAD DEAL FROM WHERE I'M STANDING.
TSSSS

I'VE BEEN TELLING VICTOR I WANT A BIGGER TUB.

MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA. MY TOE ALMOST TOUCHED YOUR THIGH.

KABOOM! THEN WE'D HAVE TO HAVE A REMODEL.

I'VE WANTED A HOT TUB FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

MAYBE WE CAN HAVE ONE TOGETHER SOMEDAY.

Mmmmmm...

AAAAHHHHHHHH!!

GET OUT!

...killjoy.

THIS IS A **JOB**, NOT A GAME.

SEEMS LIKE YOU COULD USE... A **JOB**...WITH THAT ATTITUDE.

PUT ON SOME CLOTHES.

MEET ME IN THE KITCHEN WHEN YOU'RE... ***DECENT.***

DID YOU ENJOY THE SHOW?

YOU'RE A...

I'M WHATEVER ANYONE WANTS ME TO BE.

AND YOU THINK PEOPLE WANT... *THAT.*

SHE DID.

YOU SAY IT SO...NON-CHALANTLY.

IT'S JUST SEX.

AND NOW THAT I'M RECHARGED...

TELL ME, BOSS...HOW ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ***ME*** FAMOUS?

Ummm WELL...YOU'RE A *RUSSIAN SUPERVILLAIN.*

YOU KNOW PEOPLE AREN'T GOING TO LIKE YOU, RIGHT?

THE MOST INFAMOUS PEOPLE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE REMEMBERED.

JUST FAME. THAT'S ALL YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WITH THIS?

MONEY COMES WITH FAME.

I'M UNWED. I HAVE THREE DESPERATELY SINGLE ROOMMATES, AND I'D LIKE TO MAKE A LIFE FOR MYSELF.

MAYBE A HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS.

ALONE?

I'D HAVE PLENTY OF VISITORS.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET MARRIED?

WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER?

...ИУЕТ.

IT HELPS ME GET INTO CHARACTER.

CAN YOU NOT...? THE SMOKE GETS TO ME. I HAVE ASTHMA.

HOW IS MY RUSSIAN ACCENT?

GOOD, I GUESS, BUT I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY TALKED TO A RUSSIAN BEFORE.

DIDN'T YOU FIGHT THEM IN THE WAR?

IT WAS A LOT MORE STANDING AROUND, WAITING FOR THINGS TO BLOW UP THAN HAVING CONVERSATIONS.

BUT IS GOOD, *DA?* THE ACCENT. I FEEL LIKE I REALLY NAILED IT.

...SURE, IT'S GOOD, RITA.

YOU'RE CLEAR, SERGEANT.

YOU HEAR THAT?

RITA RADON IS READY TO MAKE HER DEBUT.

YOU'RE REALLY MAKING IT HARD...

...TO RESIST.

WHO SAYS YOU NEED TO RESIST?

HOW DOES THIS MAKE YOU FEEL?
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO TOUCH?

Slower...

LIKE THIS?

Mmm... yeah.

Aaaaahhhh...

AREN'T YOUR BREASTS FEELING NEGLECTED?

Maybe a little.

I'm...I'm gonna--

AN EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT!

AN UNIDENTIFIED SUPERPOWERED WOMAN IS ON A RAMPAGE--

WAIT...DID I HEAR THAT RIGHT?

YOU SURE DID.

--FIRST RESPONDERS HAVE ARRIVED, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF BOMBSHELL AND ATOMICA YET.

ALL CITIZENS SHOULD SEEK SHELTER AND AWAIT FURTHER UPDATES.

KRAM

Wh-who are y-you?

RITA RADON!

LONG LIVE THE USSR.

ZEEEEEH

ZAP-BOOM!

=OOOOF=

WHOA!

TH-THANK YOU, ATOMICA!

BE CAREFUL! SHE'S A COMMIE! A *SUPERPOWERED* COMMIE!

BOMBSHELL AND ATOMICA. *PRIVYET.*

TOOK YOU BOTH LONG ENOUGH TO SHOW UP.

SHE'S...

...LIKE US.

FZZAM

WAIT!

WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT. LET'S TALK THIS OUT.

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH PILLOW TALK TODAY, SPASIBO.

ATOMICA!

WHAM

THRAK

VERONICA, WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU SEEM REALLY OFF YOUR GAME TODAY.

It's... nothing.

=HRRK=

YOU ARE NOT EVEN CHALLENGE FOR ME!

=ACK=

THIS IS CUTE. YOU HAVE LITTLE FAN CLUB.

HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING IT WHILE IT IS LASTING.

PUT THEM DOWN!

RED BASTARD!

YOU AIN'T HALF AS STRONG AS BOMB-SHELL AND ATOMICA!

Right on cue.

THIS IS YOUR MOMENT, SOLDIER.

S-sir...I don't think--

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO THINK, VALE.

YOU HAVE YOUR SCRIPT. STICK TO IT.

FOR THE GOOD OF YOUR COUNTRY.

VICTOR?

YOU... KNOW HIM?

PEOPLE OF NEW YORK CITY!

TAKE COVER AND LET UNCLE SAM HANDLE EVERYTHING.

ALL THREE OF THESE SUPER-WOMEN ARE RUSSIAN SPIES SENT TO INFILTRATE OUR GREAT COUNTRY.

OUR INTELLIGENCE HAS REVEALED THAT BOMBSHELL AND ATOMICA ARE SLEEPER AGENTS SEEKING TO INGRATIATE THEMSELVES TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

That can't be true... could it?

WE KNOW IT'S A TOUGH PILL TO SWALLOW, BUT WE HAVE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF!

JUST LAST NIGHT, THESE DASTARDLY VILLAINS ATTACKED A GOVERNMENT FACTORY...

...NEARLY KILLING SEVERAL GOOD MEN.

I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THOSE GIRLS.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, WE'RE NOT SO EASILY DUPED!

WHAT?

YOU ARE NOT HAVING TO HIDE ANYMORE, BOMBSHELL AND ATOMICA.

THEY ARE KNOWING EVERYTHING NOW.

LET'S DESTROY CITY TOGETHER.

BOO!

BOO!

BOO!

BOO!

BOO!

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! WE'RE NOT WITH HER!

BOOM BOOM BOOM B

LOOK OUT!

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

POOM

We need to... retreat.

ZZZT

WAY AHEAD OF YOU.

WE RISK OUR LIVES TO SAVE THOSE FUCKERS AND--

VERONICA, I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY, BUT YOU HAVE TO FEEL SORRY FOR THEM. THEY'RE BEING MANIPULATED.

THOSE PICTURES... THEY LOOKED BAD.

Everyone is turning on us.

JUST LIKE THAT.

SNAP

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?

I LIVE HERE.

IT'S MY HOUSE.

HOW COULD YOU?!

I WAS JUST TAKING ORDERS.

BY BETRAYING YOUR WIFE? YOUR FRIENDS?

THEY'RE NOT *MY* FRIENDS.

AND EVER SINCE...YOU'VE HARDLY BEEN A WIFE.

YOU COULD HAVE *KILLED US!*

YOU'RE SUCH A *DRAMA QUEEN!*

YOU CAN...FLY AROUND...PLAYING SUPERHERO, BUT WHEN I GET A PROMOTION-- *"I'M KILLING YOU".*

YOU *LITERALLY* FIRED A TANK AT US!

...I DIDN'T TELL THEM...WHO YOU WERE.

BECAUSE ***GOD FORBID*** YOUR EGO WAS SHATTERED.

YOU WEREN'T PROTECTING US.

I'M HERE TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD FOR ***EVERYBODY!***

WE'RE JUST REMINDING PEOPLE WHO THE ENEMY IS.

AND YOU THINK BOMBSHELL AND ATOMICA ARE THE BAD GUYS?

I THINK THAT THEY...THAT ***YOU*** REPRESENT SOMETHING THAT HOLDS US BACK.

COUNTRIES DO BEST WHEN THERE'S A WAR. THAT'S JUST *A FACT.*

BECAUSE FEAR DRIVES US TO BE *BETTER.*

DON'T YOU WANT THIS COUNTRY TO BE BETTER?

YOU'RE RIGHT... THE WAR WAS *THE BEST* TIME OF MY LIFE.

I WORKED HARD.

I WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

I LEARNED TO LOVE THE PERSON THAT I WAS MEANT TO BE WITH.

ZZZT

IT WASN'T FEAR THAT DROVE ME EVERY DAY...

...IT WAS *HOPE.*

HOPE THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THINGS TO CHANGE.

VICTOR, DON'T YOU WANT TO BE *HAPPY?*

...I AM HAPPY.

I'M SORRY. IT'S OVER, VICTOR.

I'M TIRED OF LIVING A LIE.

...WHAT *LIE?*

...interesting.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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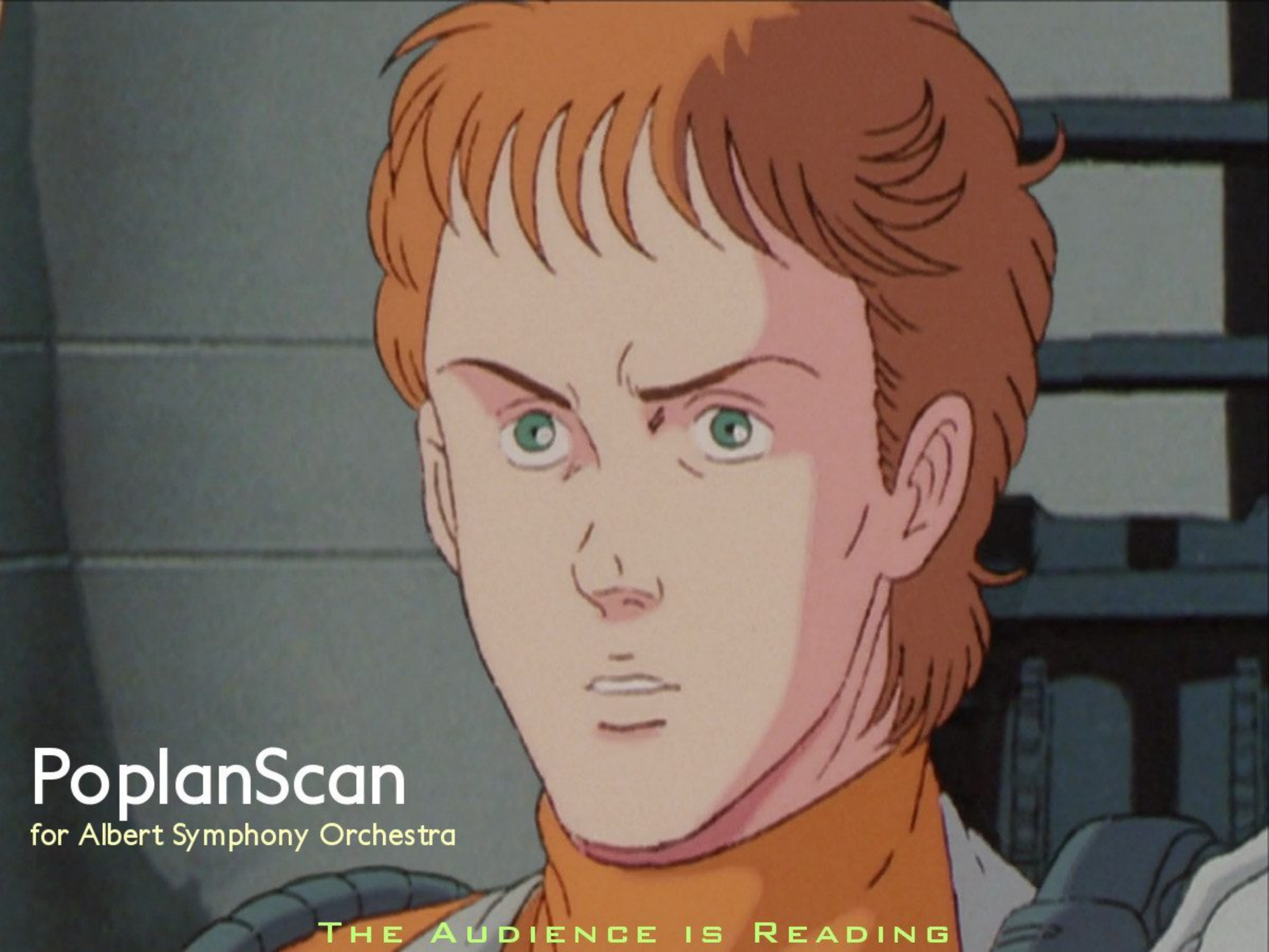
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